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VOL. 7.

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NO. 47.

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## FREE TRADE.

**John Bright Answers Some Objections**  
to It.

The advocates of protection base as their  
strongest argument that high paid American  
labor must, of necessity, be undervalued by  
low paid English and European labor, and  
that the American laborer would, by the  
establishment of free trade, be reduced to  
the level of European pauper labor. This  
fallacy was urged in England pending the  
anti-slavery law enactment some years ago,  
and the objection was successfully combated  
and overthrown by the free trade advo-  
cates there most triumphantly, and, in order  
that our people may have a popular argu-  
ment to meet this fallacy, we give the fol-  
lowing letter from Mr. John Bright, the  
great English free trade advocate, to the  
London correspondent of the Chicago Tribune:

### MR. BRIGHT'S LETTER.

LONDON, Dec. 2, 1865.

DEAR SIR: I do not recall any paper  
directly bearing on the question of wages.  
The fallacy was made great use of in our  
movement for the repeal of the Corn Laws  
—hurriedly by some men and thoughtlessly by  
others. The real argument against it is this:  
Free Trade always means a great drain  
on labor, and this always means and necessi-  
tates a high rate of wages. At the moment  
wages are higher than at any former  
period, at least, within our recollection.  
It is so within all our manufacturing  
districts, through the length of a day's labor  
which shows. It is so also with our farm  
laborers, and through all our manufacturing  
districts. In many counties their wages  
have risen from 25 to 50 per cent. since  
1850, when our agricultural industry was  
subjected to all the competition of the  
world.

The laborers in America are hard, ever  
anxious in the purchase of many articles,  
particularly in their clothing. Americans  
and Englishmen going from England to  
America now supply themselves with clothing  
to last them for years; they buy it for  
about half the price it would cost in the  
States, and thus withdraw their trade from  
the American manufacturers and escape the  
payment of the exorbitant duties on the  
American ports.

Finally, after firmly resisting all his ad-  
vances for a long time, she made an agree-  
ment with him to come to her house at 12  
o'clock at night, promising that he should  
obtain "more than his desires."

Frank was on his way to the door,  
but had no glow with the expected triumph.

He rang the bell softly, and the door was  
opened very gently—

"Is that you, darling?"

"Yes!" whispered Frank.

"Come in."

The hall was very dark, and everything  
was still.

"You must remove your boots," she whis-  
pered.

"Certainly! certainly!" and the tight-  
fitting boots, after some effort, were drawn off  
and left in the hall.

"Step softly, now, my precious, I wouldn't  
be heard for the world!" And Frank step-  
ped very softly.

The young widow led the way into the  
front parlor, which was cold and dark, and  
there requested her "precious" to commence  
dancing. Coat, vest, and pants were  
removed, when the gas suddenly blazed, the  
hissing doors were thrown back, and about  
a score of spectators laughter from a  
score of threats of both sexes burst upon  
the astonished tympanum of the astonished  
Frank. There he stood, stripped to his  
drawers, shivering with cold and shame, and  
a score of his most valuable acquaintances,  
and among them his wife, laughing at his  
predicament. He scrambled to his pants  
in a hurry, and setting his other garments  
and boots, frantically rushed into the outer.  
How he and his wife scolded it our reporter  
will not.

When the tariff question is fairly before  
the American people, the truth will be dis-  
covered. They may consent to a moderate  
tariff for revenue on all great articles of im-  
port, by which incidentally some protection  
may be unavoidably afforded to some  
branches of manufacture, but they will not  
consent to sustain branches of industry  
so futile to sustain themselves out of the  
mass, not levied for the services of the Gov-  
ernment, but extorted from them by the  
protective fallacy, for the exclusive benefit  
of manufacturers forming a small portion of  
their whole population.

It should be remembered, also, that the  
extra profit, if any, given to the manufacturers  
and manufacturers, does the dividends  
of the companies or corporations, but it does  
not readily raise the wages of their work-  
men; for the wages of their workmen are  
determined by the general rule of labor  
throughout all the States, and are not affected  
in any important or measurable degree  
by the profits made by the various manufac-  
turing corporations.

If there be profit in protection or monop-  
oly, and there often is, the workman's share  
is none at all, or so little as to be impercep-  
tible. A corporation working a very profi-  
table peasant pays no more wages to work-  
men than a neighboring corporation, carry-  
ing on a trade not protected by a patent,  
and while monopoly men enrich those who  
possess and enjoy it, it can not effect ad-  
vantageously the interests and wages of the  
workmen. The workmen's safety and suc-  
cess depend upon the state of trade, and the  
prospects of the demand for labor, and for  
above any possible interest they can have—

respect of the whole body of workmen in the  
United States, or any other country—in any  
special protection to any trade, or in the  
flourishing and prospering of any particular  
manufacture, is the greatest interest they have;  
in that perfect freedom of trade, which  
creates the greatest demand for labor, and  
gives the highest value to their skill and  
industry.

It is interesting to see the old fallacy,  
once so potent in this country, now dead and  
buried in hope and belief forever, reappearing  
with a new life in the United States, a land  
where the superstitions of Europe have  
not generally found a congenial home.

Happily for the Americans, this question  
of free trade is not mixed up, as ours was,  
with a great political question, and with the  
supposed supremacy of a powerful territo-  
rial and aristocratic class. They will find  
out the truth sooner than our people did, and  
they will be able to discuss it free from  
any circumstances which were formidable  
difficulties in our way.

All the countries in Europe are tending  
to freedom of trade, and all good and wise  
men rejoice at it. It will be strange, indeed,  
if America, foremost of all the world in the  
knowledge and possession and practice of  
political freedom, should be the last in dis-  
covering the precise value of freedom in  
industry, which may be fairly termed the  
"Charity of Freedom" to the millions of  
workmen in every country where industry  
is free.

I am truly yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

Caught in a Trap—Too Bad!

The St. Louis Press tells the following  
"good 'un":

A certain gay and festive married girl  
in the delectable city of fair women, whom  
for the nonce we will call Frank, having his  
soccer organ pretty well developed, became  
passionately enamored of a lovely  
widow, who lives in a fashionable quarter  
of the city, and has for many months past  
resorted to all the arts known to the accom-  
plished it botine to accomplish his purpose  
with her.

Finally, after firmly resisting all his ad-  
vances for a long time, she made an agree-  
ment with him to come to her house at 12  
o'clock at night, promising that he should  
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cess depend upon the state of trade, and the  
prospects of the demand for labor, and for  
above any possible interest they can have—

## The Test Oath.

Mr. Lincoln's Attorney-General, Hon.  
Edward Bates, of Missouri, published a let-  
ter in the "Missouri Republican" in which he  
gives his opinion of the odious Congressional  
test oath. He says:

"Test oaths, offices, oppressive, and com-  
monly always, are always the resort of des-  
perate parties who (as violent as timid)  
can make them (and upon this method to  
weaken their adversary, whom they are  
afraid to meet in fair and open controversy.  
French revolution, and one remarkable in-  
stance has been preserved for our instruc-  
tion by the great historian of that epoch.  
The two legislative councils—The Ancients  
and the Five Hundred—imputing to their  
adversaries the crime of Royalism, hoped  
by an artful trick to get rid of their pres-  
ence in the councils, and their influence  
with the people. Ancien is the forged name  
of Republicanism, the decree that all the  
members of the council should on a cer-  
tain day take an oath of Hatred to Royalty.  
The opposition (quite as good Republicans,  
in fact, as their hypocritical opposers) re-  
sisted, as best they could, complained and  
protested—but they took the oath—for they  
had no notion of deserting their place in  
the Government, and thus leaving their un-  
principled adversaries, unresisted, to work  
out their wicked will in the self-government  
of the country. And the philosophic histo-  
rian pronounces the subject with this brief  
remark: "This formality of an oath, so fre-  
quently employed by parties, never could be  
considered as a guarantee; it has never been  
anything but an anachrony of the conquer-  
ors, who have taken delight in forcing the  
conquered to perform themselves."

Hon. William E. Niblack.

We have on more than one occasion  
taken pleasure in referring to the honorable  
and consistent course of our called and se-  
lected representative at Washington, and it is  
a source of gratification to us, knowing him  
as we do, to be able to add anything, if pos-  
sible, to his fame as a statesman, a fearless  
politician, and a kind and courteous gentle-  
man. When the politicians of other states  
congregated at the capitol, were aird to  
such the new question which had come up  
from the toiling millions in the shape of an  
appeal for a regulation of the hours of labor  
in the Navy Yards and Government works  
to such a standard as would tend to liberate  
them from the torpor of a slavery more  
oppressive than that which had aroused the  
philanthropists of another school; for the  
black man, he stepped forward with a resolu-  
tion looking to the immediate granting of  
white men, fearlessly and to the astonish-  
ment of men of less political nerve, who  
were unable to see its effects upon party.  
For this assertion of their rights in the Con-  
gress of the United States, the workingmen  
have been pleased to publicly honor him on  
several occasions, and by numerous letters  
of thanks from societies and individuals all  
over the nation. From the following letter  
from Judge Niblack, it will be seen that  
our Evansville workingmen have communicated  
their thanks to him, and received answer.  
It is directed to one of their number,  
who has permitted us to publish it for  
the gratification of the mass interested:

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.,  
January 9, 1866.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 25th ultmo,  
was duly received. I thank you very kindly  
for the information it contains. What  
you refer to, I did as a matter of justice and  
courtesy to the laboring men of the country,  
without anticipating any applause or testi-  
monials of any kind. What I have done I  
will stand by, however, and take the chances  
and consequences.

Truly, your friend,

EDWARD BATES.

VALUE OF ANTI-SLAVERY.—The world must  
be amazed. It is entirely false reasoning to  
suppose that any human being can devote  
himself exclusively to labor of any descrip-  
tion. It will not do. Rest alone will not  
give him adequate relief. He must be em-  
ployed. He must enjoy himself. He must laugh  
and sing, dance, eat, drink and be merry. He  
must chat with his friends, exercise his mind  
experiencing gentle emotions, and be body in  
agreeable demonstration of activity. The  
constitution of the human system demands  
this. It exacts a variety of influence and  
emotion. It will not remain in health if it  
can not obtain that variety. Too much  
inertness affects it as injuriously as too  
much exertion; two much relaxation as  
pernicious as none at all. But to the it-  
derous toiler, the sunshine of the heart is  
as indispensable as the material subsistence  
is to the power; both soon pine away  
and die if deprived of it.

A NEW FASHIONED SHOE.—A new style  
of shoe is worn in New York city. The in-  
vention is simple. The upper part of the  
boot or shoe is cut in almost the ordinary  
fashion by a regular shoemaker. The sole  
and heel is made of hard maple wood, and  
joined by a shank of sole leather, which  
gives all the needed elasticity. The upper  
are fastened to the sole by a thin band of  
leather, which encircles the rim of the sole, and  
joins sole and upper together for more ef-  
ficient than any string can do. When put  
together the shoe makes a handsome appear-  
ance, and is as light as a leather shoe of  
corresponding size. The heels are comfort-  
ably hollowed out on the upper side, and  
the soles have the proper curve to insure  
easy walking.

LAKE STRASSE.—Probably the largest  
spring in the world is one in the center of  
Huntsville, Alabama, from which a stream  
of water flows sufficient to float a thirty ton  
barge. It is an object of great interest to  
the people of the neighborhood and visitors.

Another spring in Florence, in that State,  
throws out a body of water estimated at 17,  
000 cubic feet per minute.

EP The New York Tribune says of the  
Eating post: The simple truth is that the  
Post is the Sweeney, "gauging back again."  
It is qualifying itself for readmission into  
the Democratic party—for the approval and  
use of Tammany Hall. We regret this  
but can not help it. We shall try to pre-  
vent its carrying many with it.

THE GOLD AND THE CHICKASAW.—The Troy  
Times says:

"An interesting theory is advanced by  
real sevens, to the effect that the recent  
severe cold weather will have the tendency  
to drive away the cholera. The earth being  
unprotected by any covering of snow,  
the frost has penetrated to a great depth  
and killed off all miasmic or pestilential  
germs from which cholera is bred."

EP A man named Aaron Bedder, of Lau-

er County, Ky., has petitioned the Legislature  
to change his name. He says that his  
sweetheart whose name is Olivia, is un-  
tiling that he should be called A. Bedder,  
the O. Bedder, and the little one, little  
Bedder.

EP A man named Jacob Dickey, of Lau-

er County, Ky., has petitioned the Legisla-

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